

Thursday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>

1831. 17

My dear Fanny

before I began to write I thought I had a great deal to say to you and now I cannot recollect a word of any thing of consequence. You will find by the register I enclose that you are but 18, for which I am very sorry but the register will always be of use particularly when you are of age to shew Mr. Abbey without so good an evidence he might doubt your word. I like Mr. Abbey's attempt the other day to make you but seventeen - a worthless old woman. You will see that I have not forgotten the story he told me I saw Mr. Henderson yesterday but



quite forgot to ask her about it - I dined with  
Dilke a day or two after I saw you. She asked <sup>whether</sup> after  
were in town but luckily never enquired whether  
had seen you yet so I equivocated which you know  
much the same as telling a story at once and said  
did not mean to call on you at present for fear  
they should think I came too often. true enough  
We dine with them on Christmas day which is like  
people's Christmas days melancholy enough. What  
yours be? I ask that question in no exultation  
cannot think it will be much worse than mine  
have to remember that three years ago was the happiest  
day I had ever there spent - but I will not touch  
such subjects for there are much better times and



to remember them - I think you will like great part  
of the Indicator I sent you - there are two pieces of  
poetry in it signed faviane, by your brother. I never  
open it for he is connected with every page -

Tuesday Dec<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> When I had written so far I was  
dressed away and have never been able to finish till today -  
I was at a party last night the first real party  
I have been to this year - you would have ~~laughed~~  
laughed had you seen me dressed out in  
my cap &c - I did feel a little queer - I have not  
written to M<sup>r</sup> Wylie nor am I sure that I shall ever  
have common courage to do so - But you have no right to  
harass me for a little modesty, so don't feel disappointed  
if you never get the picture at all - To be sure it is  
very dishonest of him to keep it - I shall if I can find  
enclose you M<sup>r</sup> George's hair - and then you will not be



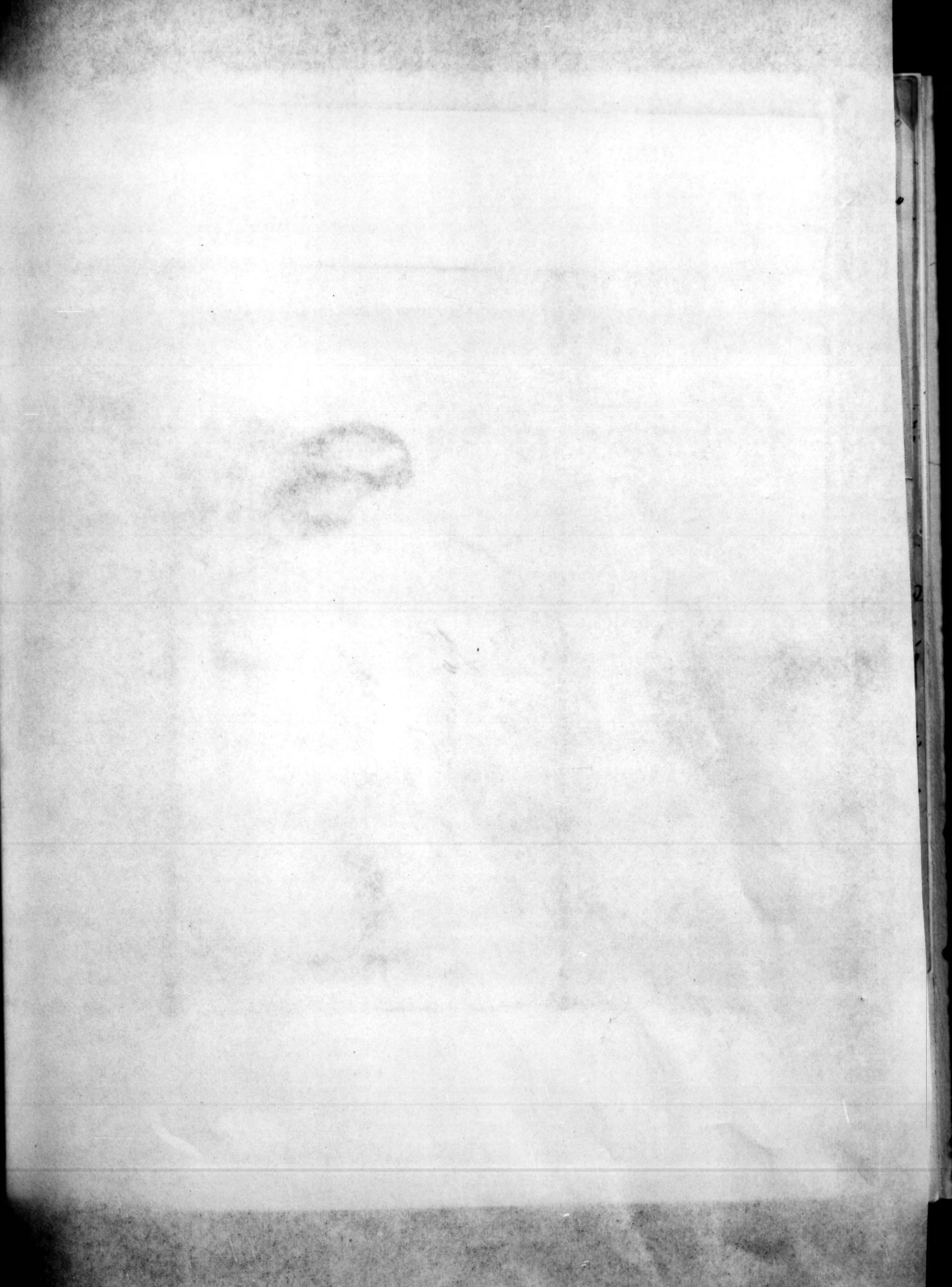
able to accuse me of any thing of the sort.

I remain my dear Fanny

yours most affectionately F.D.

Finding it is impossible which coloured hair I liked best of the two locks tied together and once flourishing on my fair head, I have sent both - they will serve to show you the mutability of all human things - though as different as possible they were cut off within a year of each other - how my hair must have changed for the better or worse - the oddest thing is the dark one was cut off first.







Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst.

in relation to the matter of the ... of the ... and ...

I have thought it best to ... and have changed ...

Very respectfully,  
Yours truly,  
[Signature]

